

The Indian Express

Express Network

India's biotech economy grew 8 times in last 8 years, expanding further: PM Modi (Page no. 11)
(GS Paper 3, Science and Tech)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India's bio-economy has grown eight times in the last eight years and that the demand for biotechnology in the country is on the rise.

PM Modi made the remarks while inaugurating the Biotech Startup Expo 2022 at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan organised by the Department of Biotechnology to celebrate 10 years of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), showcasing 75 successful startups supported by the agency.

He also launched a Biotech products e-portal of 750 biotech products.

India's bio-economy, have grown from \$10 billion to \$80 billion. India is not too far from reaching the league of top-10 countries in biotech's global ecosystem.

Pointing out the significance of the growth of the biotech sector in the development of the country, PM Modi said, "Trust in the skill and innovation of our IT professionals in the world is at new heights.

This same trust and reputation, this decade, we are seeing happening in the biotech sector of India and for the bio professionals of India.

There are five big reasons why India is being considered a land of opportunities in the field of the biotech— diverse population and diverse climatic zones, India's talented human capital pool, increasing efforts for ease of doing business in India, the demand for bio-products is increasing continuously in India and India's biotech sector and its track record of success.

Idea Page

Two Mission for Change (Page no. 13)
(GS Paper 2, Governance)

Many have likely heard the parable about a bundle of sticks. Its premise is that one stick may break but when many sticks are bundled together, it's impossible to break the stack.

Another word for unity is convergence — when ideas, projects and schemes merge, miracles happen. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a flagbearer of this idea.

The late Arun Jaitley introduced convergence as one of the primary operating principles of the government in his first budget speech.

At the Jal Shakti Ministry, we have tried to put this concept to the test.

The best exhibition of this can be found in the ways in which the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission work in tandem, one enabling the other.

During the first term of this government, the Swachh Bharat Mission was launched to stop the scourge of open defecation. More than 10 crore toilets, a record, were built, but this accomplishment could have been difficult had the government not had the foresight to build the toilets on a twin-pit design that has in-situ treatment of faecal sludge.

Now, providing tap water connections through the Jal Jeevan Mission is among the government's top priorities.

Over 9.6 crore rural households get tap water supply; notably, more than 6.36 crore households have been provided tap water connections since PM Modi announced the programme in August 2019.

The World

IAEA warns of 'Fatal Blow' to nuke deal as Iran removes Cameras (Page no 14)
(GS Paper 3, International Organisation)

Iran dealt a near-fatal blow to chances of reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal as it began removing essentially all the International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring equipment installed under the deal.

Iran had warned of retaliation if the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors passed a resolution drafted by the United States, France, Britain and Germany criticising Tehran for its continued failure to explain uranium traces found at undeclared sites.

Iran told the agency overnight it planned to remove equipment including 27 IAEA cameras, which is "basically all" the extra monitoring equipment installed under the 2015 deal going beyond Iran's core obligations to the agency. That leaves a window of opportunity of three to four weeks to restore at least some of the monitoring that is being scrapped, or the IAEA will lose the ability to piece together Iran's most important nuclear activities. Indirect talks between Iran and the United States on reviving the 2015 deal have been stalled since March.

Explained

Testosterone deficiency and the safety of Replacement Therapy (Page no. 15)

GS Paper 3, Science and Tech

Hypogonadism is a condition caused by the deficiency of the male sex hormone, testosterone, and a new study in Lancet Health Longevity looks at the short- to medium-term safety of testosterone treatment.

Analysis of data from more than 3,400 patients with hypogonadism from 17 clinical trials found little evidence that testosterone treatment increases the risk of cardiovascular events such as arrhythmia, heart attack, and stroke, in the short to medium terms.

Testosterone replacement therapy is the standard treatment for hypogonadism, which can cause sexual dysfunction, weakening of bones and muscles, and reduced quality of life. Risk factors include ageing (as testosterone levels decline with age), obesity and diabetes.

Despite being widely used, the cardiovascular safety of testosterone treatment had so far remained unclear due to inconsistent findings.

Most previous clinical studies relied on aggregate data, rather than individual participant data and have not published details of individual adverse events.

Economy

Online Offences: Government proposal for Sec 66A like steps finds no UN takers (Page no. 17)

(GS Paper 3, Indian Economy)

India's proposal before a United Nations (UN) ad-hoc committee to adopt measures similar to the controversial — and now defunct — Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, for introducing domestic legislation in member countries to categorise "offensive messages" through "communication devices" like social media as 'offences', has so far failed to garner support of any nation.

Delegates from the European Union, the United Kingdom, Georgia and Luxembourg have opposed the country's proposal for being violative of the right to speech, members attending the UN's convention said.

In 2015, the Supreme Court had struck down the particular section, calling it "unconstitutional".

A delegation from India is currently at the second session of the UN-organised international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes in Vienna.

The Indian delegation includes officials from the External Affairs, Home and IT Ministries. Set up by the terms of a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution approved in May 2021, the ad-hoc committee is supposed to submit a draft convention on countering cybercrime to the General Assembly's 78th session in 2023-24.

If passed, it will then be legally binding on all member nations of the committee.